

Message Text

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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SUBJECT: LAO RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA

REF: VIENTIANE 6430 (DTG 020908Z DEC 75)

SUMMARY: THE NEWLY FORMED PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF LAOS HAS THUS FAR CONTINUED THE AMBIVALENT POLICY OF ITS PREDECESSOR GOVERNMENT REGARDING RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA REGIME IN ANGOLA. IT LAUDS THE MPLA BUT STOPS SHORT OF EXTENDING RECOGNITION. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS THE PDRL HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO ANGOLA AND ITS PROBLEMS. THE NEWSPAPER "VIENTIANE MAY " (NEW VIENTIANE) OF JANUARY 1 CARRIED A STORY THAT HAD APPEARED IN THE "NEW YORK POST"

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CRITICIZING AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA.

2. THE DECEMBER 26 ISSUE OF THE INFORMATION MINISTRY'S "LAO PRESSE" BULLETIN CONTAINED AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE AUTHENTIC REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE." IN IT, THE MPLA'S GOVERNMENT IS PRAISED AND DESCRIBED AS ENJOYING THE SUPPORT OF MOST OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY. AMERICAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION IN FAVOR OF THE MPLA'S RIVALS, WHICH ARE DESCRIBED AS PUPPETS, IS CRITICIZED. THE EDITORIAL STATES: "THE LAO PEOPLE AND THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE, IN SPITE OF THE DISTANCE THAT SEPARATES THEM, HAVE HAD THE SAME EXPERIENCES AND HAVE THE SAME IDEOLOGY OF STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. THE LAO PEOPLE HAVE GREAT SYMPATHY FOR THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE WHO ARE CONDUCTING THEIR DIFFICULT PATRIOTIC STRUGGLE IN ORDER TO SAFEGUARD THE REGIME OF THE PRESENT PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC."

3. ON DECEMBER 31, "LAO PRESSE" CARRIED THE TEXT OF A TELEGRAM FROM ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENNE, DESCRIBED AS ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, TO LAO PRESIDENT SOUPHANOUVONG. BOUMEDIENNE'S TELEGRAM READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE PARTICULARLY GRAVE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE IN THE ANGOLAN SITUATION CONSTITUTE A DIRECT MENACE TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF AFRICA AND THE WORLD. THIS SITUATION IS AT PRESENT CHARACTERIZED BY THE OPEN MILITARY INTERVENTION OF THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA, AND THE MASSIVE USE OF MERCENARY FORCES ALLIED TO IMPERIALISM, WITH THE GOAL OF THEREATENING THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, PROCLAIMED NOVEMBER 11, 1975. THE FLAGRANT COLLUSION BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA, THE IMPERIALIST FORCES AND NEO-COLONIALISTS IN ANGOLA HAS MADE PLAIN FOR ALL TO SEE THE PLOT OF SUBSTITUTING IN THIS FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIAL COUNTRY, NEW FORCES OF DOMINATION AND EXPLOITATION THUS AGGRAVATING A SITUATION ALREADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MADE EXPLOSIVE IN THIS PART OF AFRICA BY THE EXISTENCE OF RACIST REGIMES. THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, WHOSE OBJECTIVE HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE REAL AND AUTHENTIC LIBERATION OF PEOPLES AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM, WILL NOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT IN THE FACE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. I AM CONVINCED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AFFIRMED ITS TOTAL COMMITMENT

AND ATTACHMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES AND POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT, WILL NOT FAIL TO ACCORD ALL THEIR ATTENTION TO THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA, TO DENOUNCE THE AGGRESSION OF WHICH THE FRATERNAL ANGOLAN PEOPLE ARE THE VICTIM, AND TO MANIFEST TO THEM AND TO THE LEADERS OF ANGOLA THEIR COMPLETE SOLIDARITY. SUCH AN ATTITUDE, WHICH IS IN CONFORMITY WITH THE IDEALS OF OUR MOVEMENT, CONTINUES OUR LONG TRADITION OF SUPPORT FOR JUST CAUSES."

4. COMMENT: THE LAO COMMUNISTS CANNOT BE DESCRIBED AS A VERY OUTWARD-LOOKING GROUP, AND IT IS PROBABLE THAT MOST OF THEM WOULD NOT KNOW ANGOLA FROM ANDORRA.

NEVERTHELESS, THEY LIKE TO DO THE "PROGRESSIVE" THING. IN THIS CASE, HOWEVER, WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ISSUE, THE PATH OF "PROGRESS" IS NOT CLEAR. THEY APPEAR AT PRESENT STILL TO BE TAKING THE SOLO-MONIC STANCE OF GOING MOST OF THE WAY WITH THEIR VERY GOOD FRIENDS THE SOVIETS BY PRAISING THE MPLA, WHILE SHOWING SOME CONSIDERATION FOR THEIR GOOD FRIENDS THE CHINESE BY NOT EXTENDING RECOGNITION TO THE MOVEMENT.

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